

NEW YORK HERALD

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1920.

Uncle Sam Needs Immigrants.

The anti-immigration hue and cry about 25,000,000 Europeans already swarming down and ready to swarm down upon us in one swoop is nothing less than cheerful idiocy.

If there were 25,000,000 Europeans ready to come down upon us there aren't available ships on the seven seas to transport so many voyagers to our shores next year or for many a year.

If there were ships enough to ferry 25,000,000 people from all the regions of Europe to all the ports of the United States there wouldn't be ready money to pay the 25,000,000 passages and meet the financial requirements of our admittance terms.

The clamor about the immeasurable hordes of criminals, cripples, paupers, lunatics and degenerates awaiting shipment to our shores is just as absurd. To exclude such undesirable there is no need to build a Chinese wall around our seaboard.

As a matter of fact the prohibitive legislation proposed by Representative Johnson of Washington would let into this country by collusion and cooperation among relatives who already are here and are American citizens more criminals, cripples, paupers, lunatics and degenerates than this country ever ought to let in for a hundred years.

And the English, Irish and Scotch who want to come here are not of the undesirable class. They are in the main of the very desirable and very essential class. So are the Scandinavians. So are the Italians. So are the Germans. They are imperatively needed to do our farm work, something our own wage earners will not do.

Prohibition of hard working immigrants, when there is so much hard work to be done in this country and nobody willing to do it, is a disgrace to American politics and a menace to American industrial supremacy.

Rash Friends of Greece.

From friends whose signatures indicate their Greek birth or Greek descent we are receiving letters protesting against the restoration of Constantine to the Greek throne.

To this in itself there is little objection. Obviously chain letters are infinitely preferable to bombs and

probably just as effective. But in their love for Greece and their zeal for republican institutions do the senders of these letters—good American citizens all, we hope—comprehend the consequences to America?

In the standardized chain letter each signer sends three copies to friends who are to carry on the process. Say that each unit of the epistolary barrage fire turned on CONSTANTINE has an average of ten signatures—the actual number varies from four to twenty. At the tenth stage 106,330 individuals would be sending out letters and each would be asking three friends to do likewise.

Could the Unrepentant mails stand it? Better CONSTANTINE on the throne in Greece than America put to a strain like this? We call on Messrs. THEODOROS KORCOVLOS, PHOTOS SPANDOLIS, EPISTRAOTIS TOURLES CACLIAMANOS, JIM G. VASSEYANDES, JONIS BELLIS and their associates to desist.

Mayo, Retired.

Beginning to-day, Admiral MAYO, after forty-seven years service in the United States Navy, will write "retired" after his title. That he goes from the active list because of age is not the fact; he is as vigorous in body as the youngest lieutenant in the service, as lively in mind as the newest ensign. He is furloughed for a rest, a vacation well earned, a breathing spell after years of toil.

When Admiral MAYO entered the service the navy was undergoing a change momentous in its significance. Steam and steel had proved themselves in warships; wood and sail were still in use, valiantly striving with the aid of hoary tradition for retention. The man who was to command our fleet of varied vessels in the "retreat" of wars saw the naval establishment at its lowest point in strength in the years of neglect which followed the civil war. He watched the building of the white warships with which our modern navy began. The submarine, the airplane, the dirigible as practical instruments of war came into being in his days of activity.

May Admiral MAYO live long to watch the service grow in power and strength!

The Size of the Cabinet.

A correspondent of THE NEW YORK HERALD, Mr. HOTCHKISS, asks why the Government designates the Executive Department charged with army affairs as the War Department. He is correct in saying that the Navy Department is just as pertinent to war and that war is only one of the many functions of either.

It happens that the War Department was created by statute on August 6, 1789, second in order to the Department of State and only ten days later in date of legislative birth. For almost nine years the Government got along without a Department of the Navy. This was established by the act of April 23, 1795, with a Secretary of its own.

The nomenclature of the Departments is entirely arbitrary and within the control of the Congress. The same thing is true concerning the nomenclature of the personnel. No constitutional amendment is required to effect any conceivable change that modern conditions may make advisable. A single enactment could wipe out the present department organizations and by a radical process of regrouping, combination and simplification reduce to a reasonable number the heads of Departments entitled by custom to sit at the Cabinet table as the intimate advisers of the President.

Merely for illustration and not by way of recommendation (for any scheme of rearrangement is a subject for intensive study and deliberate consideration by both the Executive and the Congress):

A Department of State, however styled, with one Secretary in the Cabinet, might include not only the administration of foreign affairs through the diplomatic and consular establishments but also such cognate functions as those assigned to the Bureau of Insular Affairs, now incongruously attached to the War Department and including the Philippines, the Porto Rico Government and the Dominican Republic; perhaps Indian Affairs, Immigration and Naturalization.

A Department of Finance, however styled, with one Secretary in the Cabinet, might add to the present functions of the Treasury those of the Bureau of Pensions, now with the Department of the Interior; also the Census, the Bureau of Standards and the various statistical establishments now scattered through the other departments.

A Department of National Defence, however styled, might combine military and naval administrations, so far as representation in the Cabinet was concerned.

A Department of Justice, however styled, might include the various commissions and boards which would naturally group themselves in association with the law business of the Government; its Secretary or Attorney-General sitting in the Cabinet and affording to the President the legal counsel which should always be directly and immediately available to him.

A Department of Domestic Affairs, however styled, might gather under one Secretary the multifarious agencies of home service, transportation, the post office, commerce, labor, agriculture, aeronautics, education, science, aesthetics and so on.

The main thing to be kept in mind in any such rearrangement is its numerical impact on the President's Cabinet. The limitation of the number of Secretaries need not impair in any degree the importance or the efficiency of the bureau, the board or the

commission which thereby loses Cabinet representation. Indeed, the change in the principle of selection ought to count for increased efficiency. In selecting a Postmaster-General, for example, the President is obliged to consider not only the candidate's fitness for the special administrative task but also his acceptability as a personal adviser in the most intimate of official relations. It is easy to imagine dozens of cases in which the country would get better bureau or commission heads if the choice were not complicated by the dual capacity which is involved in the Secretary's presence in the Cabinet.

Five would be an ideal number for the President's official family. Six would correspond to the size of the Cabinet during more than half a century of its existence. The problem of the redistribution of the various bureaus, commissions and boards with a view to the restriction of the Cabinet to reasonable dimensions is capable of many solutions, any one of which, no doubt, is better than that which we have indicated.

But it must be obvious to every intelligent and disinterested mind that something will have to be done to preserve the Presidential Cabinet from the ridiculous fate of gradual development into a deliberative assembly of about the size of the United States Senate in the first years of the Republic.

Fordham Needs Help.

It is a matter of pride at Fordham University that its doors have never closed against a boy because he could not raise the modest tuition fee it charges. That fact is one of the compelling reasons why this school enjoys the warm affection of New York.

The open door naturally puts an unusually heavy drain on the resources of the university, and that drain has been increasingly severe since the high cost of living hit the academic groves. Now the institution asks for help from the community it has so unselfishly and so efficiently served. It wants money to sustain it in its efforts to serve the great community whose growth has amazingly increased the opportunity and obligation of educational institutions.

A dozen years ago there were 706 students at Fordham. This year there are 2,740 students. Next year the number will be larger. Provision must be made for them, and the money must be raised at once. A Christmas gift to Fordham would be an appropriate Yuletide benefaction for any man to make.

Giving to educational institutions is making payment on account of a debt the public owes to the establishments which trained the leaders of to-day and which are to-day preparing the leaders of to-morrow for the tasks they must face.

Keeping the Farms Going.

Naturally the Secretary of Agriculture takes up in his annual report the alarming rate at which people are leaving the farms. He does not make the mistake which the Secretary of the Interior made in attributing the march to the cities almost entirely to the lack of comforts on the farm. Secretary Mendenhall, as a publisher of farm papers, knows well that farmers have had modern conveniences at their call for ten years; and yet the desertion of the farm has gone on as steadily as it went before.

A century ago 87 per cent. of all American labor was employed on the farm. In 1840 the percentage was 77; in 1870 it was 47; in 1890 it was 39. Now, although the census figures are not complete, it is likely that not more than 30 per cent. of the working population is in agriculture. Part of this fall in percentage, from one decade to another, was natural and proper, for, as Mr. Mendenhall says, "increased efficiency in farming operations, resulting from the use of new and better machinery and the application of scientific knowledge, has consistently lowered the demand for labor in certain kinds of farm work." When Mr. Farmer buys a tractor plough or one of his sons may be free to go to the city, where he perhaps goes to work in a tractor factory. When that happens the farmer's son is still working for the soil.

But the main reason for the procession from the farm to the city is the fact, as Secretary Mendenhall remarks, that "the increased standards of living of the American people as a whole have caused a great expansion of all industries centering in cities; and the industrial bid for workers, accelerated by conditions during and immediately following the war, has been a strong magnet exerting a pull upon workers in agriculture." The war made fine jobs in machine shops and shipyards for young men. But there was the wider and more permanent economic change to which Mr. Mendenhall refers: the great national demand for the luxuries that have become necessities. If the farmer and his wife wished phonographs, electric light plants, steam heaters and porcelain tubs—and they are as much entitled to them as anybody is—the factories had to have men to make these things; so they called for the farm boys to come and share the prosperous farmer's money.

The country, however, must have its farms, and plenty of them. "When American agriculture begins to lose ground," says Secretary Mendenhall, "the political stability of the nation is endangered." The farm must not lose its balance and that balance is no easy trick to keep. Last year there were planted in the United States, for every head of its population, an acre of corn, half an acre of wheat, two-fifths of an acre of oats. What with minor grains and pota-

toes, tobacco and cotton, more than ten acres for every family were under cultivation. Of course we do not use all of this, but we must have it, as an exporter of food, to keep the scales of international trade from tilting against us.

The farmer is confronted now not only with labor shortage but with a falling market. The drop in prices, however, is something which is observed in all lines of business; and if the farmer takes in less money he will also pay out less for materials. Dullness in the factories will return, to some extent, his missing labor. This, however, will be only a temporary cure for the help problem. When the pendulum in the factories swings back to prosperity we shall see the young men again leaving the plough for the bench. For a permanent remedy for the labor shortage on the farms we shall have to turn to something which Secretary Mendenhall does not suggest. This is the admission of that class of immigrants from the northern countries of Europe which has proved itself of wonderful value in American agriculture.

Holland a Trade Buffer.

The British have been first to recognize the potential usefulness of so-called buffer States in the readjustment of trade relations among the former belligerents.

Examples of this important function of buffer States are found in the Baltic States, which England fostered as offering a doorway into Russia; in Transcaucasia, in Denmark and in Switzerland, but as a commercial intermediary capable of dealing with all comers alike with equal advantage to herself Holland transcends all the others in importance. Switzerland probably holds second place as a trade buffer, but she is hampered as a trading nation by lack of a merchant marine.

The opportunity presented by central Europe, practically isolated and shorn of its merchant marine by the peace treaty, was not overlooked by Holland, and she at once prepared herself to act as the channel of a trade which has developed to large proportions between central Europe and the rest of the world. The traditional trading qualities of the Dutch got a chance to prove themselves anew and they did not fall short of expectations. As typical evidence of this new Dutch function may be taken the manifests of Dutch vessels coming into and leaving our ports. Nearly all these manifests list a larger percentage of German goods than of any other class. Holland has become the entrance and the exit for all who would trade with central Europe.

It was not to be supposed that the shrewd British trader would fail to grasp the significance of Holland's strong position as a trade buffer.

The understanding between the Royal Dutch Company, which is of Dutch parentage, and the Shell Transport and Trading Company, with its English sponsorship, was one of the first signs of the closer relations between English and Dutch business. Another and even more important development is the merger of the Furness Shipping and Agency Company of England and R. S. Stokvis & Co. of Rotterdam.

This is the most important combination of powerful shipping and trading interests effected in Holland in many years and is so characterized by the United States Consul at Rotterdam. It is an ideal combination, which will provide a broad field for the financial and trading genius of both the English and the Dutch, and through it Holland shows how buffer States may make of themselves something besides military pawns.

A steady improvement is reported in the business of printing indictment blanks.

It looks as if the fever in Ireland would have to be worse before it is better.

The United States Treasury is down to its last \$160,000,000, an amount so low that the Shipping Board would scorn to squander it.

Mrs. MATHILDA MALKIN who, at 82, has just taken out naturalization papers and plans to vote in the future elections displays a spirit a good many younger men and women may well admire. She knows what the franchise is worth in the United States.

Harvard's senior class has an election scandal, an incident which will add strength to the demand for the college man in politics.

A New Jersey hunter who rifled a squirrel's store of winter provisions was attacked and painfully bitten by the proprietor. The public will sympathize with the squirrel; any creature which has been wise enough to lay by food for the cold season is entitled to defend it.

This leather pumps and cowhide stockings worn by women in cold weather never seem to injure their wearer's health, according to Dr. WILLIAM T. WATSON of Baltimore, Maryland. Here is one more exemplification of the great truth that what the hardy sex endures for fashion is never serious to hurt its members.

The Christmas Watch. Save for the engine's rhythmic beat the ship is wrapped in dreams. Behind it on the darkened deep A wake of silver streams. I walk my lonely watch, and hear The voices of the brave Old Vikings chant their zodiac wild In roars of wind and wave.

God seems a little nearer here, Far out upon the grand blue sea, than when I used to keep My Christmas on the land; For—so it seems to me—the stars Are shining angel eyes That watch above the mariner From stations in the skies. MINNA TAYLOR.

We Want Workers.

An Employer on Immigration and the Public Schools.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: Every thinking man and woman in the United States ought to read your editorial article of November 27, entitled "The Question of Immigration," think it over and help to bring about its suggestions.

Our schools are spoiling our boys and girls for manual labor, and, as you say, "farmers are not born but brought up from childhood to work and to think about their work. While in Italy recently I was agreeably surprised and could not help admiring boys of from eleven to thirteen working carrying sand for money, earning something to help fill the dinner pail, putting into their work the same energy they would at play. Every little boy I saw was laughing, looked happy and cheerful, many of them without shoes, some wearing wooden shoes, without stockings, each having his two hours at noon to rest and eat his pail of soup or polenta.

Here in our country we have had to witness some of the present growth of socialism among public school graduates and the inability of our manufacturers to obtain apprentices at an age when they can and will learn something are sad symptoms of the results of too much book knowledge, or perhaps I should say, too little, for the schools are teaching us the wrong of the world.

Nevertheless, at the very same time we see men like Herbert Hoover calling for more men of the very same education, and praying that the women with the ballot will second his demands. The faults now common among boys and girls between fifteen and twenty would have little existence if they were trained to moderate work before the age of sixteen. Work brings them into harmony with themselves and their surroundings. The money spent on playgrounds and amusements parks should be saved for the taxpayer.

In your article you say "We need immigrants, but not the undesirable and breeders of unrest and crime, which are a curse to our country." Neither are they wanted in our own countries, and these farers are often paid to enable them to be dumped on our shores for us to care for and to upset our otherwise peaceful country.

This country certainly needs men to work on our farms and in our coal mines. There never was a time in the history of America when good, clear thinkers and cheerful workers were so much needed. HARRIET FISHER ANDREWS. TRENTON, N. J., December 10.

The Diminishing Labor Supply.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: Years ago labor excluded the Chinese and now servants are a lost institution.

A few years ago the master plumbers of New York resolved to limit the number of their apprentices, and now no plumber will work unless paid \$10 a day and given a bouquet and a box of candy in addition to a tip.

Labor demands restriction of immigration so that common labor will become extinct. The farmers could obtain labor last summer at about \$7 a day, but can only sell at \$10 a bushel.

The United States will certainly be in trouble next summer without any common labor. IMA WELSH. NEW YORK, December 10.

Servants Few, Wages High.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: The crying need of the hour in our cities is domestic servants. The scarcity of household help is breaking up our homes and undermining family life. It is driving people into hotels and two room makeshift apartments. It is directly responsible for the fall in valuation of private houses and the corresponding increased and often exorbitant rentals demanded in apartments.

Women cannot run their houses without servants and fewer heads of families can afford to hire them at the present and ever mounting rate of wages. The average householder cannot continue to meet their demands and his wife and children are the sufferers. He has been patient in the hope that with the end of the fiscal year of war and the resumption of immigration relief these intolerable conditions was in sight.

Now he learns that agitation is afoot to restrict immigration. This will necessarily mean still further screwing up of houseworkers' wages and a larger exodus of families from private houses. If family life is the bulwark of the State and the guarantee of national well-being it behooves our lawmakers in Congress to take note of these extraordinary conditions when contemplating the framing of new laws of far reaching consequences. I. R. F. NEW YORK, December 10.

Wisdom on an Old Coin.

American Mottos of 1787 Which Are Worth Remembering Now.

TO THE NEW YORK HERALD: I have an old coin in my possession bearing the date 1787. On the one side are the words "We are one" and on the other "Mind your business."

I think these are good mottos for our country to-day. I for one do not like to see any other flag flying in the United States by the side of our Stars and Stripes. I don't think it is a mark of loyalty. I do not think it would be allowed in England—unless there was a big black flag of the Kaiser.

We have our own flag, and if aliens come here let them come under our flag and no other. Let each country have its flag. When we mix them we lose respect for any. Now let our Stars and Stripes float over the United States and allow no other flag to mar its beauty. A TRUE AMERICAN. OXFORD, December 10.

Life in Quantill's Old Stamping Grounds.

From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Confining himself to an actual list of community calamities Mayor King of Lone Jack, Missouri, reasons convincingly that the blowing up of the local electric light plant, the quitting of his job by the shipping bus driver, the departure from the midst of them of the sole barber and the robbery of the local bank—all in a short space of time—indicate the prevalence of the evil spirit of the hour, and that the pressure distribution of his mail influence. But it is to be observed that 25 per cent. of Lone Jack's life is due to preventable accident and 25 per cent. to crime of unusual magnitude and daring, while 50 per cent. is due to labor troubles. Life within Lone Jack is only typical of the larger life outside of Lone Jack. It is a cross section of a status prevailing in the entire country; indeed, throughout the world. Lone Jack is just up to date.

Modern Revelations.

From the Hot Springs Sentinel-Record. The proof of the drinking is too often in the post-mortem.

Harrold in Season's First "Parsifal"

Sembach Indisposed and Is Replaced by American Tenor, With Mme. Matzenauer as Kundry.

Mr. Gatti-Casazza could not make the public a Christmas present of "Parsifal" this year owing to the fact that Christ was born on a Saturday. For the same reason he could not solemnize the birth of the new year with the spectacle of the unveiling of the Grail. The first representation of the sacred festival drama took place at the Metropolitan Opera House yesterday afternoon. Owing to the indisposition of Mr. Sembach, Orville Harrold was the Parsifal, and William Gustafson, a new bass, was heard, though not seen, as the always invisible Titurel.

Mr. Gustafson sounded well, and will probably be useful among the Metropolitan forces. Another voice not heard last season was that of Robert Blass, who sang Gurnemanz, but it was not new to the Metropolitan stage, since Mr. Blass was the original of the patriarchal knight in the Corried production of Wagner's last drama. The scenic attire of the opera was improved by the abolition of the remarkable pagoda in which Kundry appeared in the garden scene last winter. She was revealed yesterday on a bank of flowers much nearer the front of the stage. The change was a decided improvement.

Mme. Matzenauer's Kundry.

The performance was generally good, though not all respects as to the singing might have been desired. Mme. Matzenauer's Kundry was the most conspicuous single figure, although it wants something of the much promised seductive witch. Yet there is some ground for laying the blame for this want at the door of Wagner. Parsifal may have been even a more singularly pure young man than the one sung by Gilbert and Sullivan, but even a more sophisticated and inflammable youth might have hesitated in the presence of Wagner's inspiring heroine.

The irrepressible subject of the English text thrust itself forward once more. Mr. Krebbs's new version is the most singular of all the English translations and much of it is easily to be understood, but unless long flowery melodramatic phrases in opera are entirely supplanted by arioso closely following the syllabic scheme of recitative or chant, text can never be wholly understood, no matter how well pronounced by the singers. Mr. Harrold receives and deserves much credit for his enunciation, but the character of his recitative is extremely helpful.

Tosca in the Evening.

In the evening the opera was of a very different type. It was Puccini's "Tosca," with Miss Destinn in the name part. Benjamin Gigli was the Cavaradossi and Mr. Scott was the incomparable Scarpia. There were changes in the minor roles. Mlle. Picco appearing as Angelotti and Paolo Ananias as the Sacristan.

The performance was one of merit, if not of high distinction. Miss Destinn's voice was not in its best condition and its tones were of uneven beauty, some being hollow and unsteady, while others were smooth and silvery. Mr. Gigli's tones again gave pleasure by reason of their freshness and vibrancy, but his acting was merely a matter of form, and not very good form at that.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Fred Tams and Mr. and Mrs. Gano Dunn were with Mr. and Mrs. Stephen H. Olin in box No. 17. Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Sherrill, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence L. Gillespie and Mr. and Mrs. F. Egerton Webb were with Mr. James B. Clews in box No. 12.

Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. William H. Osborn, Miss Grace Vanderbilt and Mr. R. Thompson Williams were in box No. 3. Prof. and Mrs. H. Fairfield Osborn were with Dr. and Mrs. Clarence G. Campbell in box No. 10.

Mr. and Mrs. William E. Iselin and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Iselin were in box No. 15. Mr. and Mrs. William Greenough and Mr. W. Rhineland Stewart were with Miles O'Reilly's dead, they say: The old cat has gone his way. Let the town that knew him well Stop to hear his funeral knell.

Tough as hickory was he, Straight as the hickory tree—"Straight" as the words may say, That was Miles O'Reilly's pride.

He was just a soldier man, Warrior of a fighting clan; Soldier on the bloody field, No. 3 Soldier when he packed a shield.

There was just one thing he knew—Stick the job and let it through: Rough and smooth, and bright and dim, It was all the same to him.

Fear no fad ever dealt In the dock O'Reilly dealt: Hard the game, but so he won—Won, and quit when he had done.

Now O'Reilly's dead, they say: The old cop has gone his way. Let Broadway that knew him well Pause and hear his funeral knell.

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